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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

REPORT NO.:

TOPIC Airfield of PETROVACEVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT August 1947 to November 1948DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 6 September 1949

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 Blueprint

REMARKS _____

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1. The new military airfield was located 11 miles east of SKOPLJE, in the middle of the triangle formed by PETROVAC, ILINDEN, and MILADINOVIC. The SKOPLJE "Fegrab" Construction Firm, a civilian firm for granite and concrete constructions, was in charge of the work at the airfield. Eng. HILJA, a Yugoslav, was the civilian constructing supervisor, Air Force Capt. GREGOREWITSCH the military construction supervisor. The latter was also CO of the 200-man air force construction battalion. The airfield was scheduled to be completed by the spring of 1949. The entire airfield area was 10,000 x 11,500 feet.
2. a. The following aircraft types were observed: Twin-engine "Douglas", "Fieseler Storch", and duplicates of the "Klemm" plane. The "Douglas" aircraft were used by the civilian construction staff, the other types by the military construction staff.
- b. The new 250 x 5,000-foot concrete runway, with a 6-inch concrete surface, was not completed on 20 November 1948.
- c. The construction of the four new hangars, which were scheduled to be 160 x 250 feet, had not started. The five wooden cantonment buildings, each 660 feet long, were occupied by two hundred PWs and an air force construction battalion of two hundred men.
- d. The six semi-underground ammunition bunkers, east of the airfield, measured 33 x 33 x 10 feet. The concrete surface was about 20 inches thick. Bombs and aircraft ammunition were to be stored in these bunkers.
- e. The fuel dump, located at the eastern border of ILINDEN, comprised six about 33 feet high tanks for aircraft gasoline. An underground gasoline pipe led from the fuel dump to the runway.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

NO CHANGE in Class

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS

Auth: 100-44 Apr 77

Auth: 100-44 72/1233

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2. a. Five ammunition dumps were established north of ILINDEN, between August and November 1948. These were 13 x 250 feet tunnels driven into a bare mountain slope. However, the entire earth cover had to be removed and was replaced by corrugated sheet metal vaults. Upon completion of the dumps several hundred ammunition boxes, marked with the calibers "88-mm" and "105-mm", were tracked there. Militia has guarded the dumps since 10 November 1948.
- b. Eight antiaircraft gun emplacements were clearly observed on the hills between CRNPLJE and MILADINOVIC. Each emplacement had one 88-mm antiaircraft gun with a 5-man crew. Firing practices were not observed. Each emplacement was surrounded by an embankment. Other gun emplacements were located on the ridge near MILADINOVIC.

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Comment: The accuracy of these statements cannot be rated for lack of comparable information. The PETROVAC airfield was probably constructed after W. II. Since it was not completed at the time of observation it has not been used.

1 Annex: Airfield of PETROVAC, Yugoslavia.

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